



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

June 1, 2021

**By Email**  
**Prompt Reply Necessary**

Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc.  
Attn: Nancy L. Lanzalotto & Craig E. Foote  
7 Rome Street  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Email: [craig@ihcco.com](mailto:craig@ihcco.com)

Re: Pierson's Creek Superfund Site – Newark, New Jersey  
Request for Information Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675

Dear Ms. Lanzalotto and Mr. Foote:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is charged with responding to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants into the environment and with enforcement responsibilities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA" or the "Superfund law"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675.

This letter seeks the cooperation of Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc. ("IHCC") in providing information relating to the contamination of the Pierson's Creek Superfund Site ("Site") located in Newark, New Jersey, and any information that may assist EPA in its investigation of the Site. EPA has documented the release and threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants at the Site. Under Section 104(e)(2) of CERCLA, EPA has broad information gathering authority, which allows EPA to require persons to provide information and/or documents relating to, among other things, materials generated, treated, stored, or disposed of or transported to a facility as well as the nature and extent of a release of a hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant at or from a facility. EPA may also request information pertaining to the ability of a person to pay for or perform a cleanup. Additional information about the Superfund law may be found at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-cercla-overview>.

Upon information and belief, IHCC owns the property located at 7 Rome Street, Block 2081, Lot 10, in Newark, New Jersey ("Property"). In the enclosed Request for Information, EPA seeks to obtain information concerning IHCC and its activities at the Property. Pierson's Creek flows near the Property and any releases or threats of release of hazardous substances from the Property may have led to contamination in the creek.

We encourage you to give this matter your immediate attention. A complete and truthful response to the attached Request for Information should be provided **within 30 days** of your receipt of this letter. Should this deadline be difficult to meet in light of the COVID-19 situation, please contact the EPA individuals identified below to discuss an alternative response due date.

While EPA seeks your cooperation in this investigation, compliance with this Request for Information is

required by law. In preparing your response to this Request for Information, please follow the instructions provided in Attachment A. When you have prepared your response to the Request for Information, please sign the enclosed "Certification of Answers to Request for Information" and return that Certification to EPA with your response. Please note false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations may subject you to civil or criminal penalties under federal law (18 U.S.C. § 1001). In addition, CERCLA Section 104(e) authorizes EPA to pursue penalties for failure to comply with Requests for Information. The information you provide may be used by EPA in administrative, civil or criminal proceedings.

Some of the information EPA is requesting may be considered by you to be confidential. Please be aware you may not withhold the information from EPA upon that basis. If you wish EPA to treat the information confidentially, you must advise EPA of that fact by following the procedures described in the Instructions Section in Attachment A, including the requirement for supporting your claim of confidentiality.

Please further note that if, after submitting your response, you obtain additional or different information concerning the matters addressed by our information request, it is necessary you promptly notify EPA. If you have information about other parties who may have information which may assist EPA in its investigation of the Site or may be responsible for the contamination at the Site, that information should be submitted within the time frame noted above.

This Request for Information is not subject to the approval requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.

See the enclosed Instructions for information on how to respond to the enclosed questions. If you are able to send your response to this Request for Information by electronic mail, please send electronic copies (PDF or JPEG) to Pamela Tames and Amelia Wagner at the e-mail addresses below. Hard copies of your response should be mailed to:

Pamela Tames, P.E., Remedial Project Manager  
Superfund and Emergency Management Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway - 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
tames.pam@epa.gov

with a copy to:

Amelia Wagner, Assistant Regional Counsel  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway - 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
wagner.amelia@epa.gov

If you have any questions regarding this Request for Information, or if you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. Tames at (212) 637-4255 with technical questions or Ms. Wagner at (212) 637-3141 with legal questions. Please note that all communications from attorneys should be directed to Ms. Wagner.

We appreciate and look forward to your prompt response to this information request.

Sincerely yours,

**ERIC WILSON**

Digitally signed by ERIC  
WILSON  
Date: 2021.06.01 10:24:57  
-04'00'

Eric J. Wilson, Deputy Director  
Enforcement and Homeland Security  
Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Attachments

cc: Pamela Tames, P.E., EPA  
Amelia Wagner, Esq., EPA

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

#### **A. Directions**

1. In answering the questions, every source of relevant information to which you have access should be consulted, regardless of whether the source is in your immediate possession or control. All relevant documents or other information, including records of all types of manufacturing, treatment, transportation or disposal operations, in your possession or in the possession of the company should be consulted.
2. A complete and separate response should be given for each question. For each question contained in this letter, if the information or documents responsive to this information request are not in your possession, custody, or control, please identify the person(s) from whom such information may be obtained.
3. Identify each answer with the number of the question and the subpart to which it responds. For each document produced in response to this Request for Information, indicate on the document, or in some other reasonable manner, the question to which it applies.
4. Provide responses to the best of your ability, even if the information sought was never put down in writing or if the written documents are no longer available. Consult with all present and past employees and agents of your company whom you have reason to believe may be familiar with the matter to which the question pertains.
5. In answering each question, identify each individual and any other source of information (including documents) that was consulted in the preparation of the response to the question.
6. If you are unable to give a detailed and complete answer or to provide any of the information or documents requested, indicate the reason for your inability to do so.
7. If you have reason to believe an individual other than one employed by your company may be able to provide additional details or documentation in response to any question, state that person's name, last known address, email address, phone number and the reasons for your belief.
8. If a document is requested but not available, state the reason for its unavailability. To the best of your ability, identify the document by author, date, subject matter, and number of pages and all recipients of the document with its addresses. If anything is omitted from a document produced in your response to the Request for Information, state the reason for and the subject matter of the omission.
9. If you cannot provide a precise answer to a question, please approximate, but in any such instance, state the reason for your inability to be specific.
10. If anything is omitted from a document produced in response to the Request for Information, state the reason for, and the subject matter of, the omission.

11. Sign the Certification of Answers to Request for Information where indicated.
12. Confidential Information. The information requested herein must be provided even though you may contend it includes confidential information or trade secrets. You may assert a confidentiality claim which covers part or all of the information requested, pursuant to Sections 104(e)(7)(E) and (F) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e)(7)(E) and (F).

If you make a claim of confidentiality for any of the information you submit to EPA, you must address the following points:

- a. The portions of the information alleged to be entitled to confidential treatment;
- b. The period of time for which the confidential treatment is desired (e.g., until a certain date, until the occurrence of a specific event, or permanently);
- c. Measures taken by you to guard against the undesired disclosure of the information to others;
- d. The extent to which the information has been disclosed to others, and the precautions taken in connection therewith;
- e. Pertinent confidentiality determinations, if any, by EPA or other federal agencies, and a copy of any such determination or a reference to them, if available; and
- f. Whether you assert that disclosure of the information would likely result in substantial harmful effects on your business' competitive position, and if so, what those harmful effects would be, why they should be viewed as substantial, and an explanation of the causal relationship between disclosure and such harmful effects.

To make a confidentiality claim, please stamp or type "Confidential" on all confidential responses and any related confidential documents. Confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified. Please submit your response so that all non-confidential information, including any redacted versions of documents, is in one envelope and all materials for which you desire confidential treatment are in another envelope.

All confidentiality claims are subject to EPA review. It is important that you satisfactorily show you have taken reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the information and that you intend to continue to do so, and that it is not and has not been obtainable by legitimate means without your consent. Information covered by such claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent permitted by CERCLA Section 104(e)(7) and EPA's pre-disclosure notification procedures. If no such claim accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, then it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. EPA provides no assurances that all information that you assert as confidential business information will not be publicly disclosed. Any determination regarding public disclosure will be based on a review of the information and relevant countervailing factors.

## B. Definitions

1. The term **“arrangement”** shall include every separate contract or other agreement between two or more persons, whether written or oral.
2. As used herein, the terms **“company”** or **“your company”** refer not only to Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc. as it is currently named and constituted, but also to all predecessors or successors in interest and all subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates and branches of your company and all of its predecessors or successors in interest. The term “company” is not limited to corporations.
3. The terms **“disposal”**, **“hazardous waste”**, and **“storage”** shall have the meanings contained in Sections 1004(3), (5) and (33) of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 6903(3), (5) and (33), respectively.
4. The term **“document”** and **“documents”** shall include any written, recorded, computer generated, or visually or aurally reproduced material of any kind in any medium in the company’s possession, custody, or control or known by the company to exist, including originals and all non-identical copies.
5. The terms **“facility”**, **“hazardous substance”**, and **“person”**, shall have the meanings set forth in Sections 101(9), (14), and (21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(9), (14), and (21) respectively.
6. The term **“identify”** means, with respect to a natural person, to set forth the person’s name, present or last known employer, business address and business telephone number, present or last known home address and home telephone number, and present or last known job title, occupation, position or business. With respect to a corporation, partnership, business trust or other association or business entity (including a sole proprietorship) the term **“identify”** means to provide its full name, address, and affiliation with the individual and/or company to whom this request is addressed.
7. As used herein, the term **“IHCC”** refers to Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc.
8. The term **“material”** or **“materials”** shall include any and all objects, goods, substances, or matter of any kind, including, but not limited, to wastes.
9. The term **“pollutant or contaminant”** shall have the same definition as that contained in Section 101(33) of CERCLA and includes any mixtures of such pollutants or contaminants with any other substances.
10. As used herein, the term **“Property”** refers to 7 Rome Street, Newark, NJ 07105 (Block 2081, Lot 10).
11. The term **“release”** shall have the same definition as that contained in Section 101(22) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(22), and includes any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment, and other closed receptacles containing any hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant.
12. The term **“Site”** shall mean the Pierson’s Creek Superfund Site, which includes Pierson’s Creek, all tributaries to Pierson’s Creek, and the Troy Chemical Corporation property located at One Avenue L, Newark, NJ 07105. The Site is located in Newark, NJ in the vicinity of Avenue L and

proceeds through open drainage ditches and culverts and covered pipes until it discharges into the Port Newark slip of Newark Bay. While the Creek originates in the vicinity of Avenue L, it collects drainage from storm drains and culverts north of Avenue L.

13. The term “**you**” shall mean the addressee of this Request for Information, the addressee’s officers, managers, employees, contractors, trustees, partners, successors, assigns or agents.
14. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meaning, unless such terms are defined in CERCLA or RCRA, in which case the statutory definitions shall apply.

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

- 1) Please answer the following questions with respect to IHCC:
  - a) State the legal name of the company.
  - b) State the name and address of the president or the chairman of the board, or other presiding officers of the company.
  - c) Identify the state of incorporation of the company and the company's agent for service of process in the state of incorporation and in New Jersey.
  - d) State whether IHCC is a subsidiary or affiliate of another entity. If so, please identify the name of each such related entity. For each related entity, describe the relationship to IHCC and indicate the date and manner in which each relationship was established.
- 2) Does IHCC own the Property located at 7 Rome Street, Newark, New Jersey? If so, from whom did IHCC purchase the Property and in which year? Please describe the relationship, if any, between IHCC and any of the parties that owned or operated at the Property prior to IHCC.
  - a) Please provide a copy of IHCC's deed or deeds to the Property. If the Property is held in the name of another entity, please identify the name of the entity, its relationship to IHCC, and list the entity's president, board chairman, or other presiding officers.
  - b) If applicable, provide a list of any past and current tenants who operated at the Property while IHCC owned it. Describe the business and activities performed by each tenant and/or operator at the Property.
- 3) Did IHCC or any prior owner receive, utilize, manufacture, discharge, release, store or dispose of any materials containing any of the following substances at the Property:
  - a) 1, 1- Dichloroethane (Yes/No)?
  - b) 1, 1, 1- Trichloroethane (Yes/No)?
  - c) 2, 3, 7, 8 – tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (Yes/No)?
  - d) Other dioxin compounds (Yes/No)?
  - e) Aldrin (Yes/No)?
  - f) Antimony (Yes/No)?
  - g) Arsenic (Yes/No)?
  - h) Benzene (Yes/No)?
  - i) Cadmium (Yes/No)?
  - j) Chromium (Yes/No)?
  - k) Chlordane (Yes/No)?
  - l) Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) (Yes/No)?
  - m) Dieldrin (Yes/No)?
  - n) Ethyl benzene (Yes/No)?
  - o) Iron (Yes/No)?



- p) Lead (Yes/No)?
- q) Lindane (Yes/No)?
- r) Manganese (Yes/No)?
- s) Mercury (Yes/No)?
- t) Naphthalene (Yes/No)?
- u) Other volatile organic compounds (VOCS) (Yes/No)? If “Yes,” please list the specific compounds.
- v) Other semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) (Yes/No)? If “Yes,” please list the specific compounds.
- w) Pentachlorophenol (Yes/No)?
- x) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (Yes/No)?
- y) Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (Yes/No)?
- z) Other Per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) (Yes/No)? If “Yes,” please list the specific compounds, if known.
- aa) Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) (Yes/No)? If “Yes,” please list the specific compounds.
- bb) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (Yes/No)? If “Yes,” please list the specific Aroclors or other formulations.
- cc) Silver (Yes/No)?
- dd) Toluene (Yes/No)?
- ee) Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) (Yes/No)?
- ff) Vinyl Chloride (Yes/No)?
- gg) Xylene (Yes/No)?
- hh) Zinc (Yes/No)?

4) Regarding IHCC’s use of the Property:

- a) Please describe any manufacturing processes that have generated hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, including, but not limited to, any substances identified in your response to question 3.
  - b) For any processes identified in response to question 4(a), during which parts of the manufacturing process were the hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants generated?
    - i) For each process, specify the amount of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants generated per volume of each finished product.
    - ii) Were these hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants combined with wastes from other processes? If so, please identify such wastes and the other processes.
- 5) Describe the methods of collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of all hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants utilized by IHCC at the Property, including, but not limited to, the substances identified in your responses to questions 3 and 4.
- 6) Were any hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants disposed of in or discharged to Pierson’s Creek and its unnamed tributaries or through storm sewer systems connected to Pierson’s Creek, either directly or via runoff? If yes, identify the substances, estimate the amount of material discharged to or disposed of in Pierson’s Creek or its tributaries, the location of the discharges/disposals, and the frequency with which such discharges or disposals occurred.

- 7) Please identify any leaks, spills, explosions, fires or other incidents of accidental material discharge that occurred at the Property which resulted in any hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant being released onto the Property, into the waste water or storm drainage system at the Property, or into Pierson's Creek or its unnamed tributaries. Provide any documents or information relating to these incidents, including the ultimate disposal location of any such materials. If available, please provide the results of any sampling of the soil, water, air or other media after any such incident and before and after clean-up.
- 8) Were any waste water or stormwater collection, transport, or disposal systems located on or providing service to the Property connected to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission ("PVSC") during the time IHCC owned or operated at the Property? If so, please provide all related documents and information, including but not limited to, the date from which the sewer system was connected to the PVSC.
- 9) Is IHCC a successor to any liabilities for any other entity's possible pollution of the Property? If so, please identify the other entity, the liabilities to which your company succeeded, and the basis for why you believe your company is a successor.
- 10) If your company occupied this Property prior to 1985, please list all agreements or contracts, including but not limited to insurance policies, which may indemnify your company or business, and its present or past owners, operators, partners, and/or shareholders, for any leaks or spills that may have occurred at the Property prior to 1985. If available, please provide a copy of each such agreement, contract, and insurance policy.
- 11) If you have reason to believe there may be persons able to provide a more detailed or complete response to any question contained herein or who may be able to provide additional responsive documents, identify such persons and the additional information or documents they may have.
- 12) Have there ever been any civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings against IHCC for violations of any local, state, or federal laws or regulations relating to water pollution or hazardous waste generation, storage, transport, or disposal at or from the Property? If yes, please provide details about any such proceedings. If available, please provide copies of all pleadings and depositions or other testimony given in these proceedings.
- 13) Provide the name, address, telephone number, title, and occupation of the person(s) answering this Request for Information and state whether such person(s) has personal knowledge of the information provided in the responses. In addition, identify each person who assisted in any way in responding to the Request for Information and specify the question to which each person assisted in responding. Please include the names and addresses of former employees who were contacted to respond to any of the questions.

CERTIFICATION OF ANSWERS TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

State of \_\_\_\_\_:

County of \_\_\_\_\_:

I certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to respond on behalf of Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc., I have personally examined and am familiar with the information and all documents submitted in response to EPA's Request for Information, and based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate, and complete, and that all documents submitted herewith are complete and authentic unless otherwise indicated. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment. I am also aware that Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc. is under a continuing obligation to supplement this response to EPA's Request for Information if any additional information relevant to the matters addressed in EPA's Request for Information or my response thereto should become known or available to me or Industrial Hard Chromium Co, Inc. after submitting this response.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE (print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE